



*Minimal Residual Disease (MRD) as a Surrogate Endpoint in ALL  
FDA Workshop, 18 April 2012, Silver Spring, MD*

# EuroFlow Consortium and MRD strategies

Novel concept in diagnostic flow cytometry

Jacques J.M. van Dongen  
on behalf of



**EuroFlow**



**EuroFlow**

# Achievements of the EuroFlow Consortium

## Immunobeads

- special immunobead assay for detection of fusion proteins in leukemias
- multiplex approach for fusion protein detection per disease category

## Multicolor flow cytometry ( $\geq 8$ colors) with standardization

- inclusion of violet laser and selection of appropriate fluorochromes
- standardization of instrumentation and laboratory protocols
- detailed testing and comparison of antibody clones and conjugated antibodies (multiple companies)

## Implementation and development of novel software

- fast analysis of large data files (including automated pattern recognition)
- comparison of tubes: calculation and APS view
- machine diagnosis and follow-up leukemia samples against templates of “normal control” samples

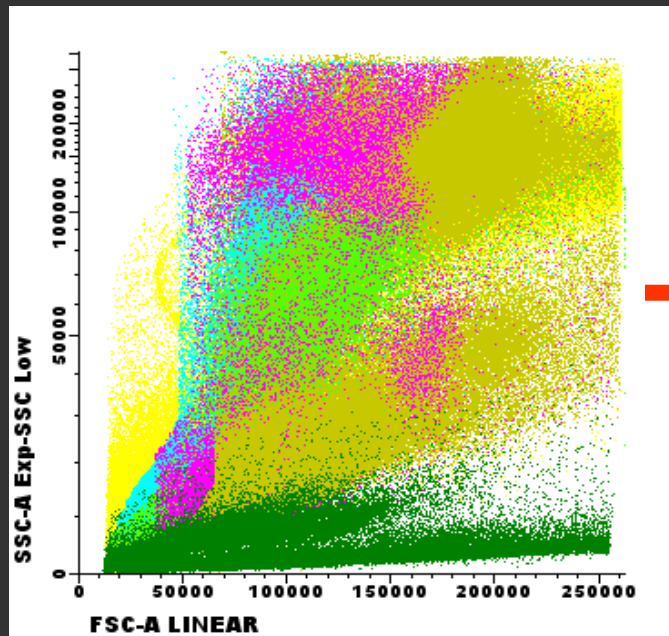
## Development of 8-color antibody protocols for diagnosis, classification and monitoring of hematological malignancies

- screening tubes (include recognition of normal leukocyte subsets)
- multi-tube panels for diagnosis and classification per disease category
- special tubes for MRD monitoring per disease category

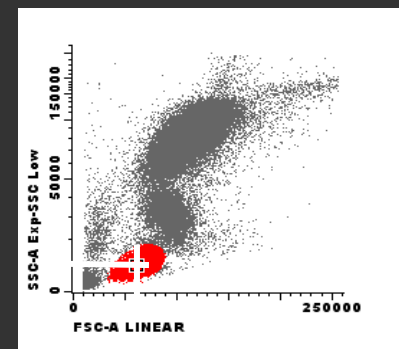
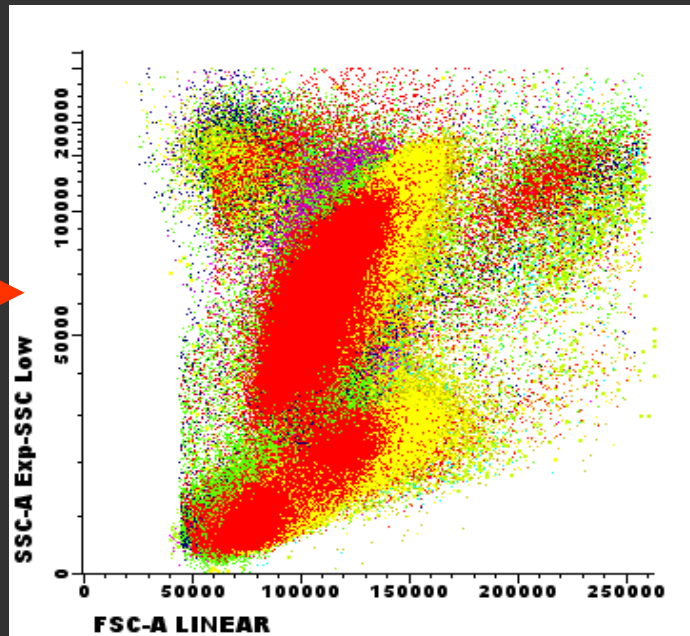
**Full standardization**

# Synchronized light scatter experiments

“Local” settings



EuroFlow settings



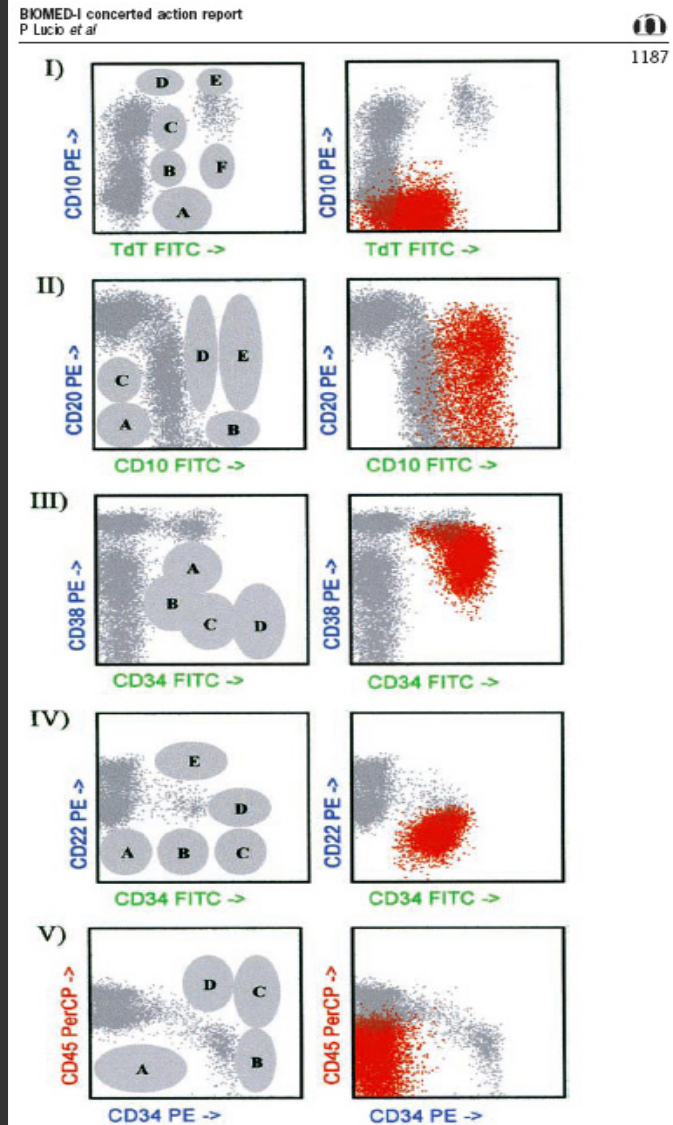
7 different normal PB samples acquired in 7 different centers

Normal PB samples processed according to the standardized EuroFlow sample preparation protocol

# Immunophenotypic classification & identification of LAIP

TdT+ / CD19+ / CD38+

Precursor  
-B-ALL

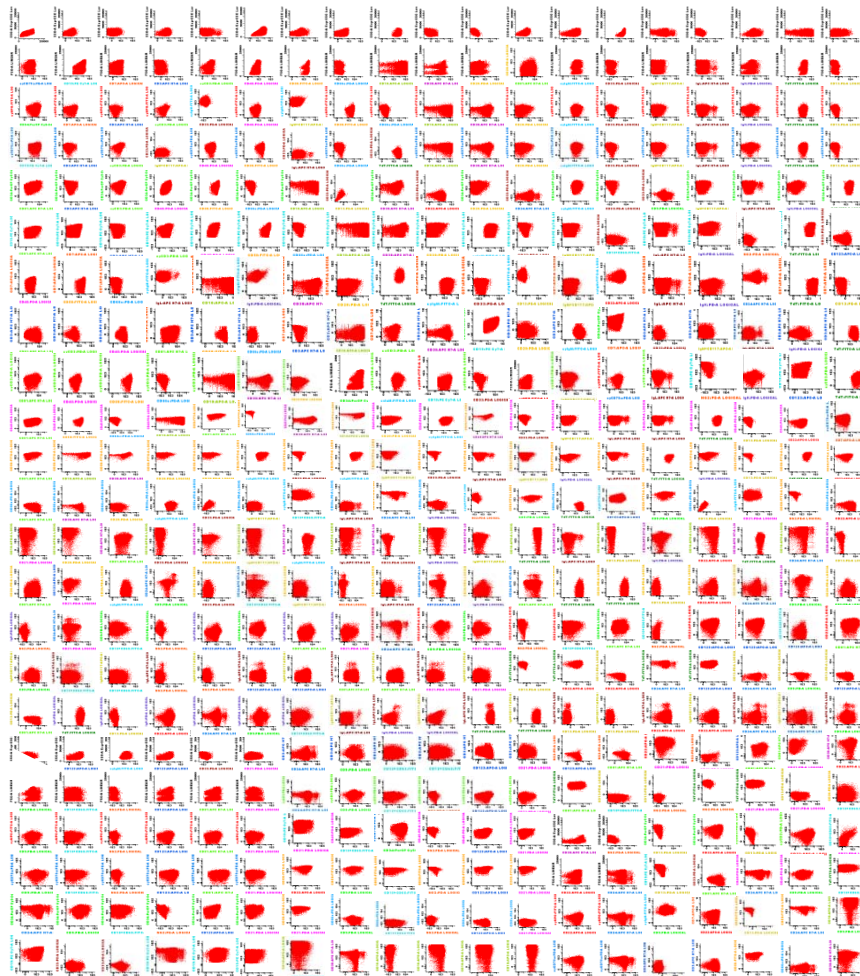
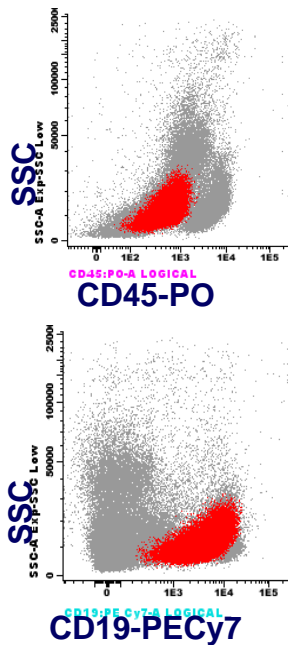




# IMMUNOPHENOTYPIC CHARACTERISTICS OF NORMAL vs LEUKEMIC B-CELLS

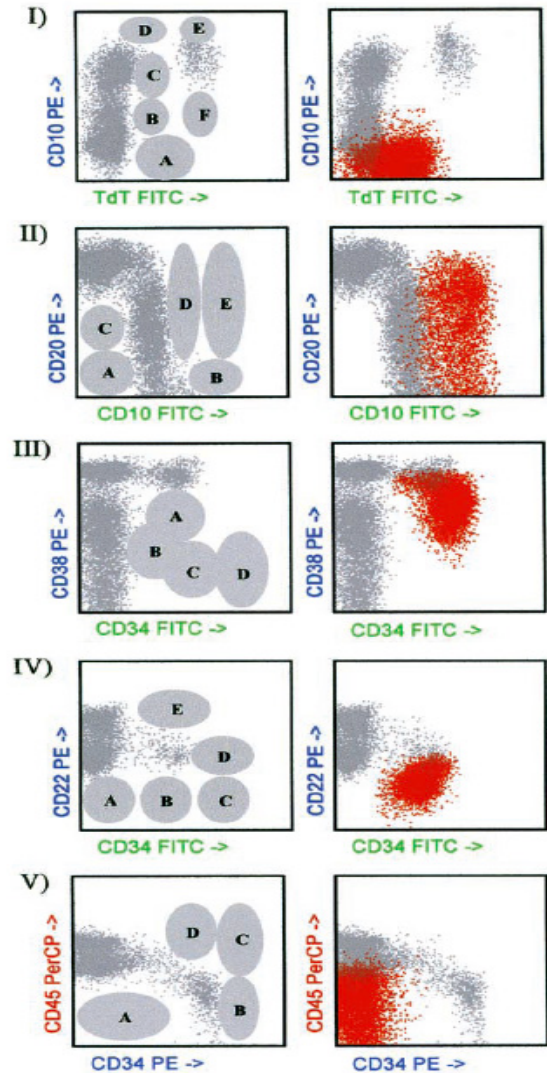
CD19+  
B-CELLS

8- COLOR flow cytometry: BCP-ALL  
EuroFlow panel (450 bivariate plots)



BIOMED-I concerted action report  
P. Lucio et al

1187

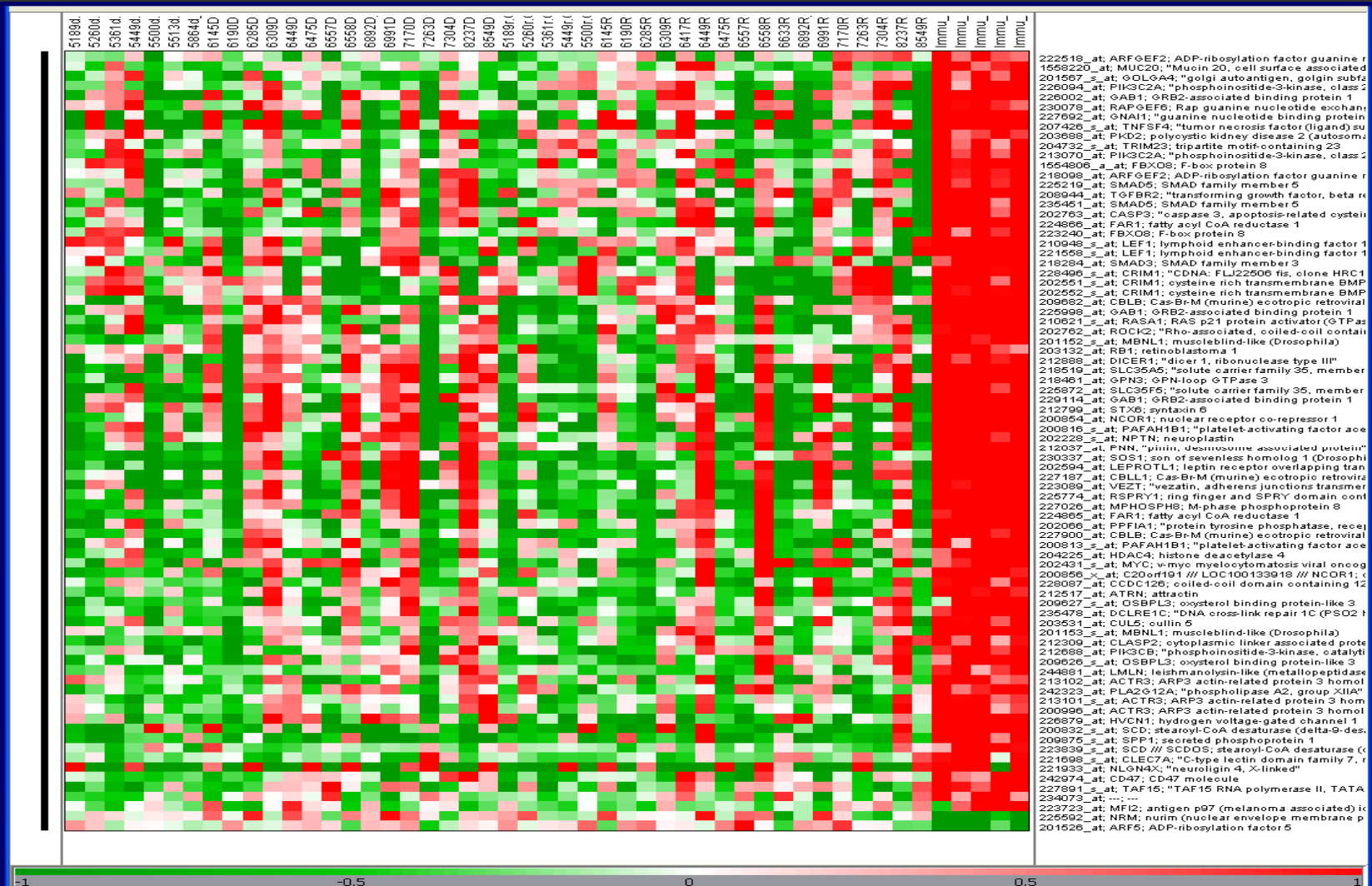


*Lucio et al, Leukemia, 1999*

# Gene expression profiling of ALL cells in BM at diagnosis and purified ALL cells at extramedullary sites

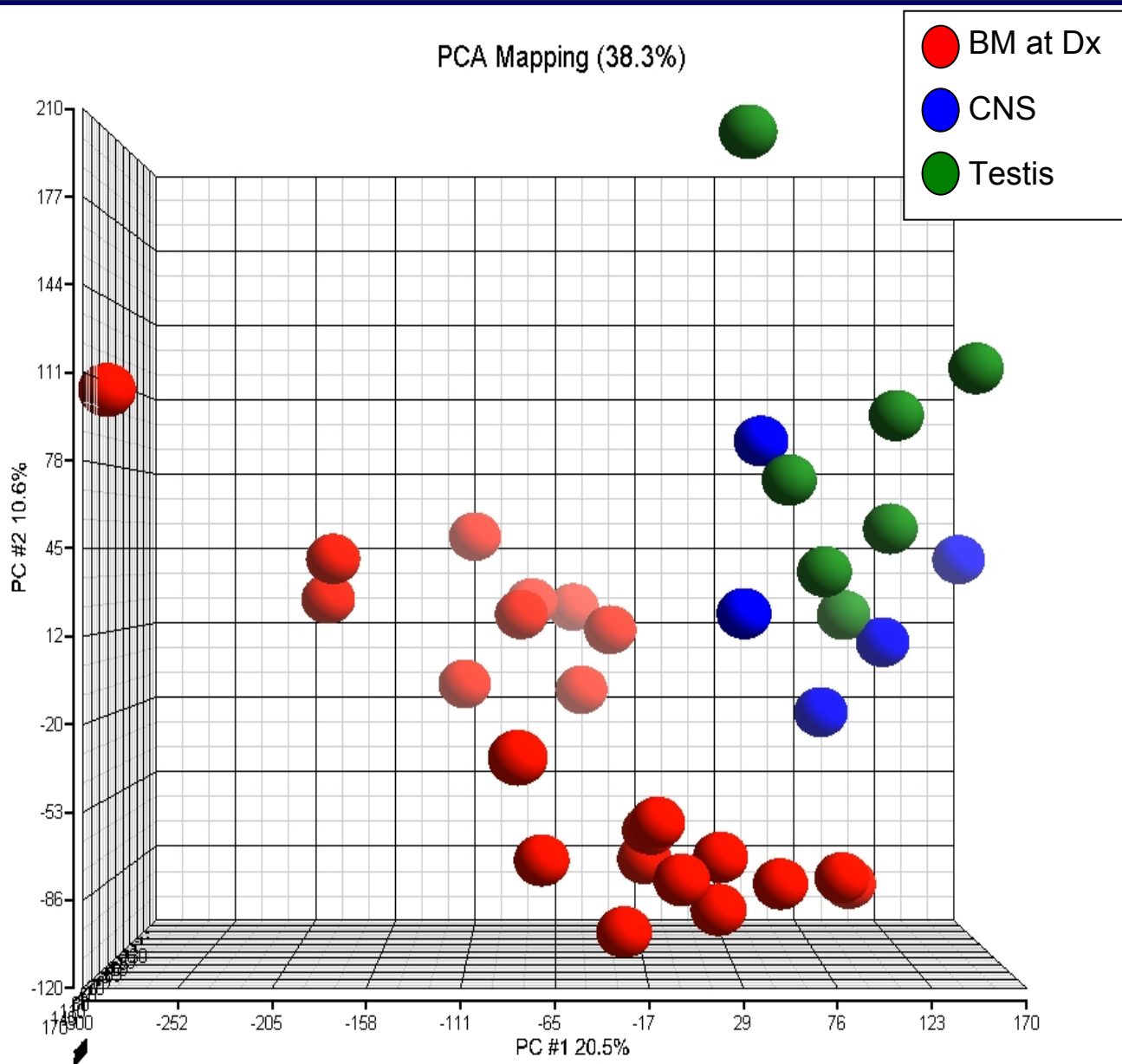
Diagnostic BM samples of relapsed patients (n=22)

CNS samples (n=5)



Heat map of gene expression

# Gene expression profiling of ALL cells in BM at diagnosis and purified ALL cells at extramedullary sites



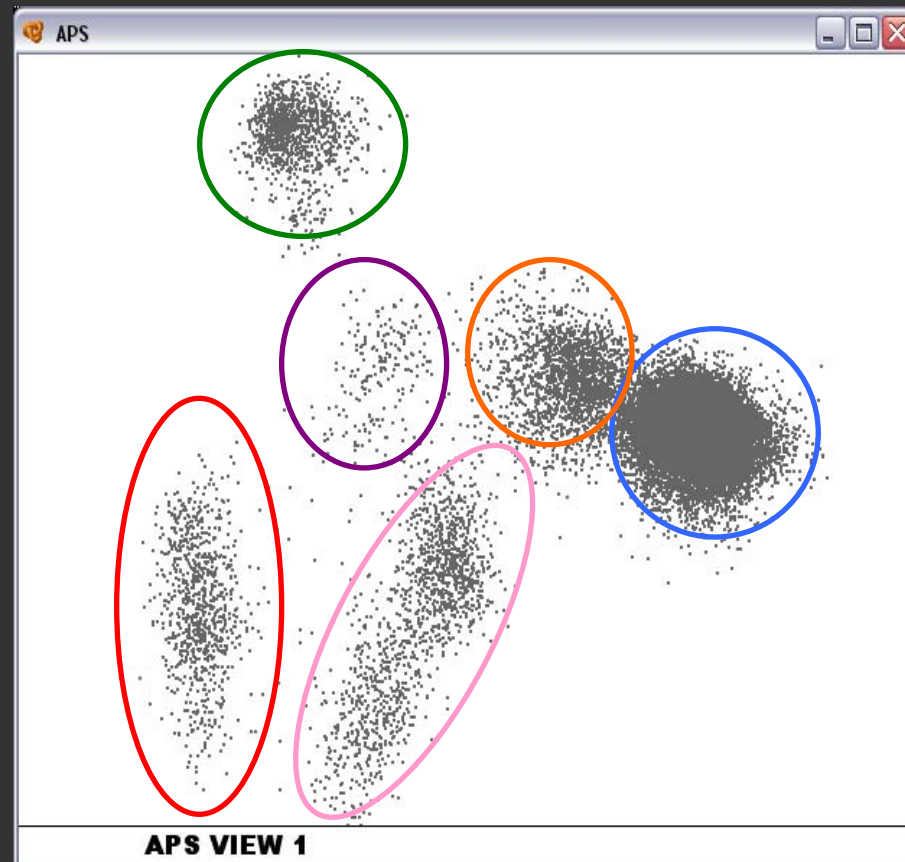
PCA study  
(Principal Component  
Analysis)

V.H.J.van der Velden  
& J de Vries,  
unpublished results

# Automatic identification of populations

Multidimensional analysis:

Automated Separation among different cell Populations (APS view)



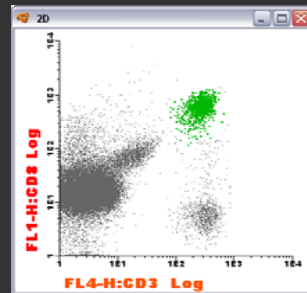


# Automatic identification of populations

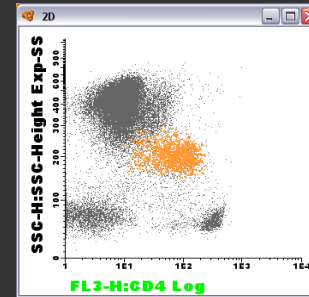


EuroFlow

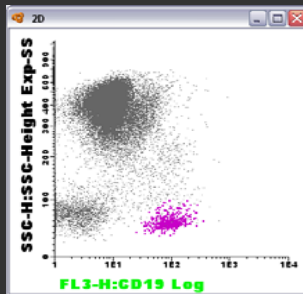
CD8+ T-lymfocytes



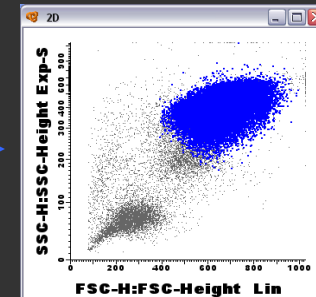
Monocytes



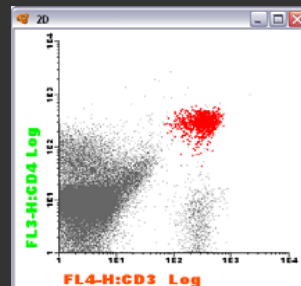
B-cells



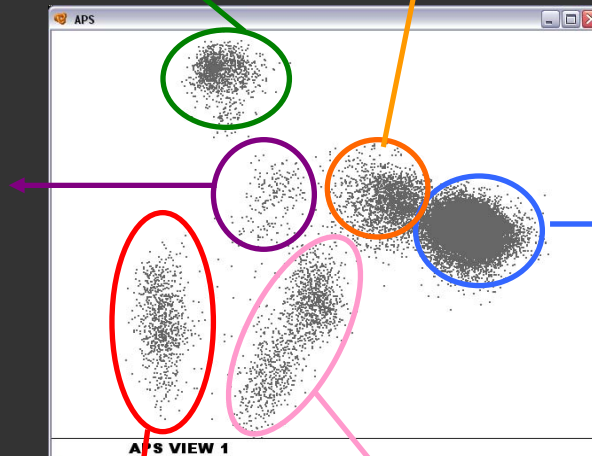
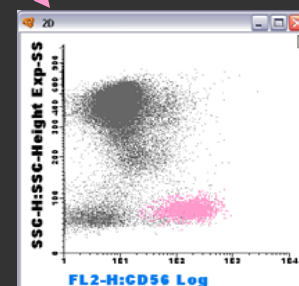
Neutrophils



CD4+ T-lymfocytes

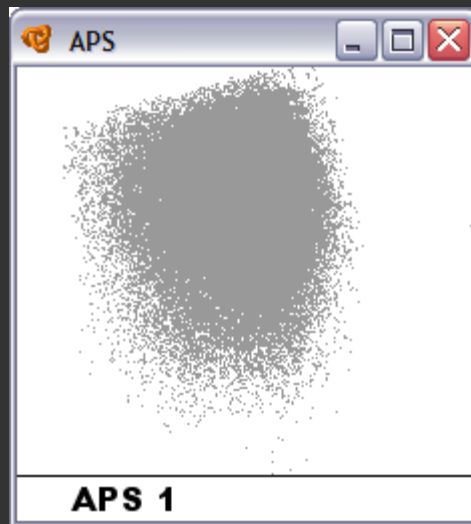


NK-cells

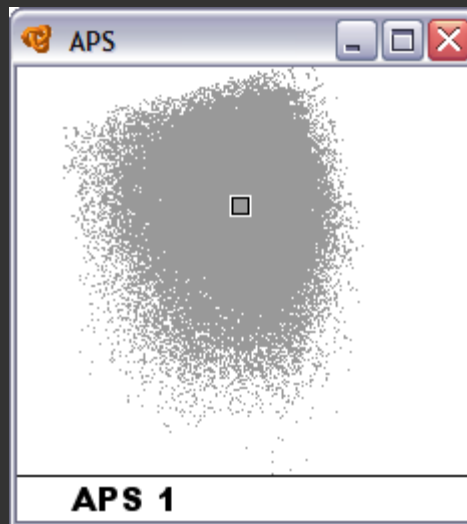


# APS Procedure for AUTOMATIC ANALYSIS

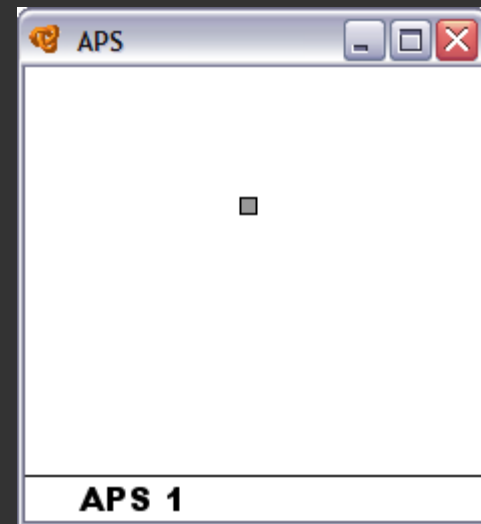
## VISUALIZATION OPTIONS



**Dots**

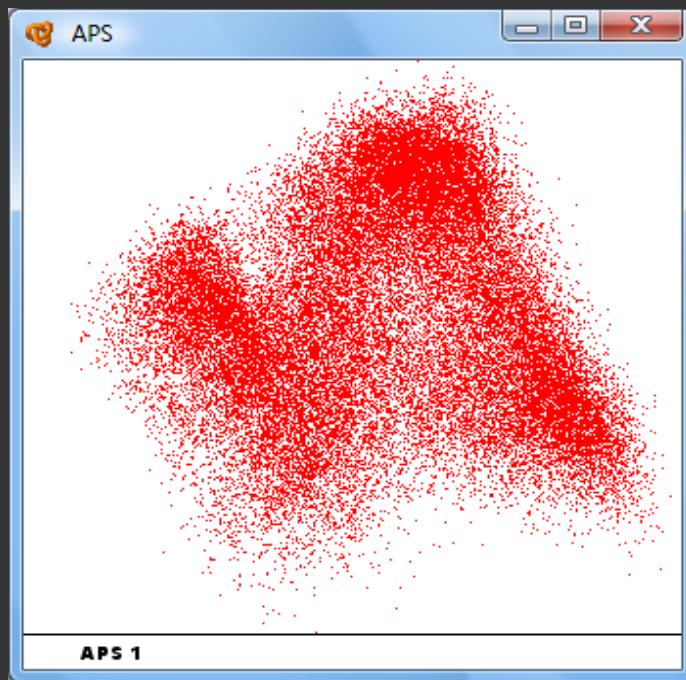


**Dots / Mean**

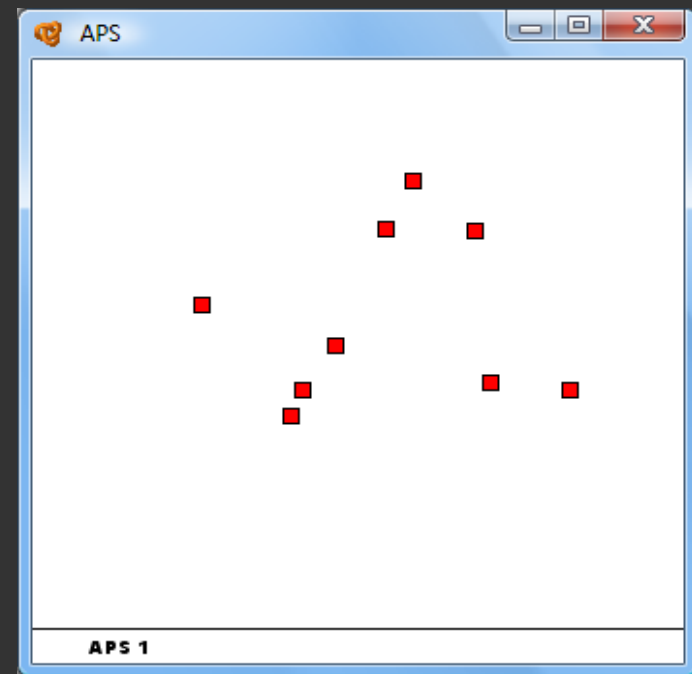


**Mean**

## APS Procedure for groups of patients



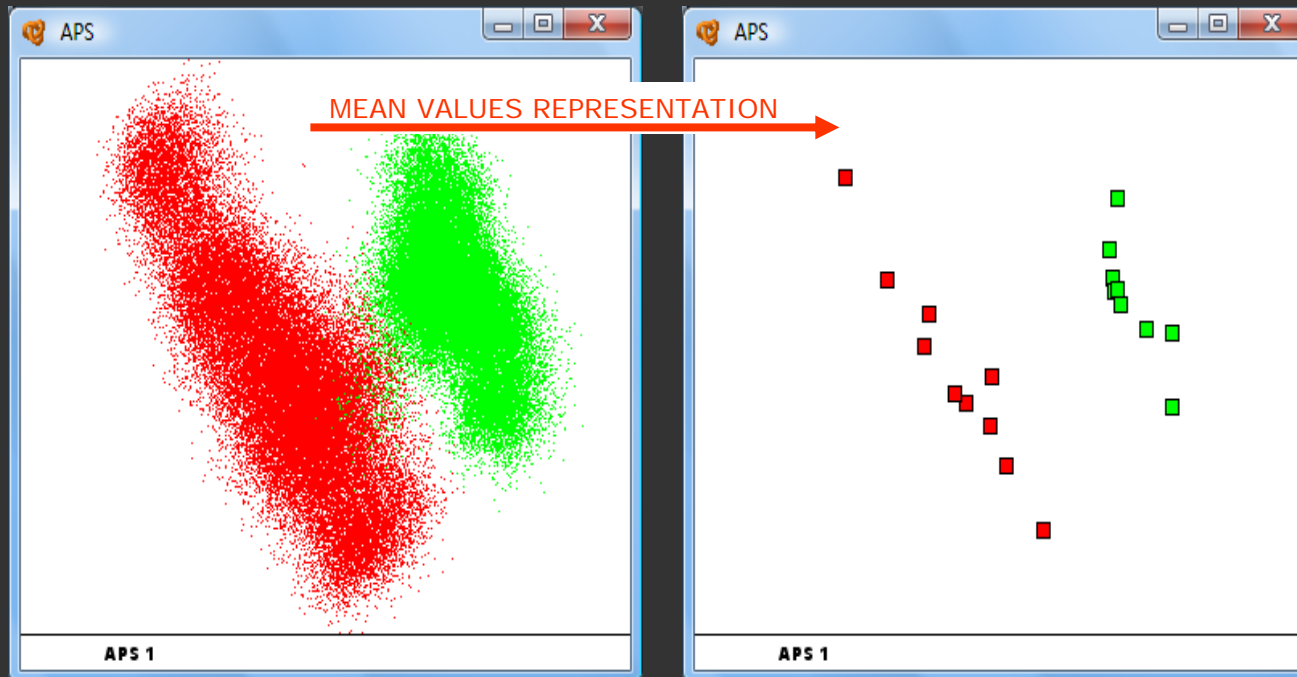
APS Dots View



APS Means View

Group of patients with the same panel/protocol applied and same disease category

## APS Procedure for groups of patients

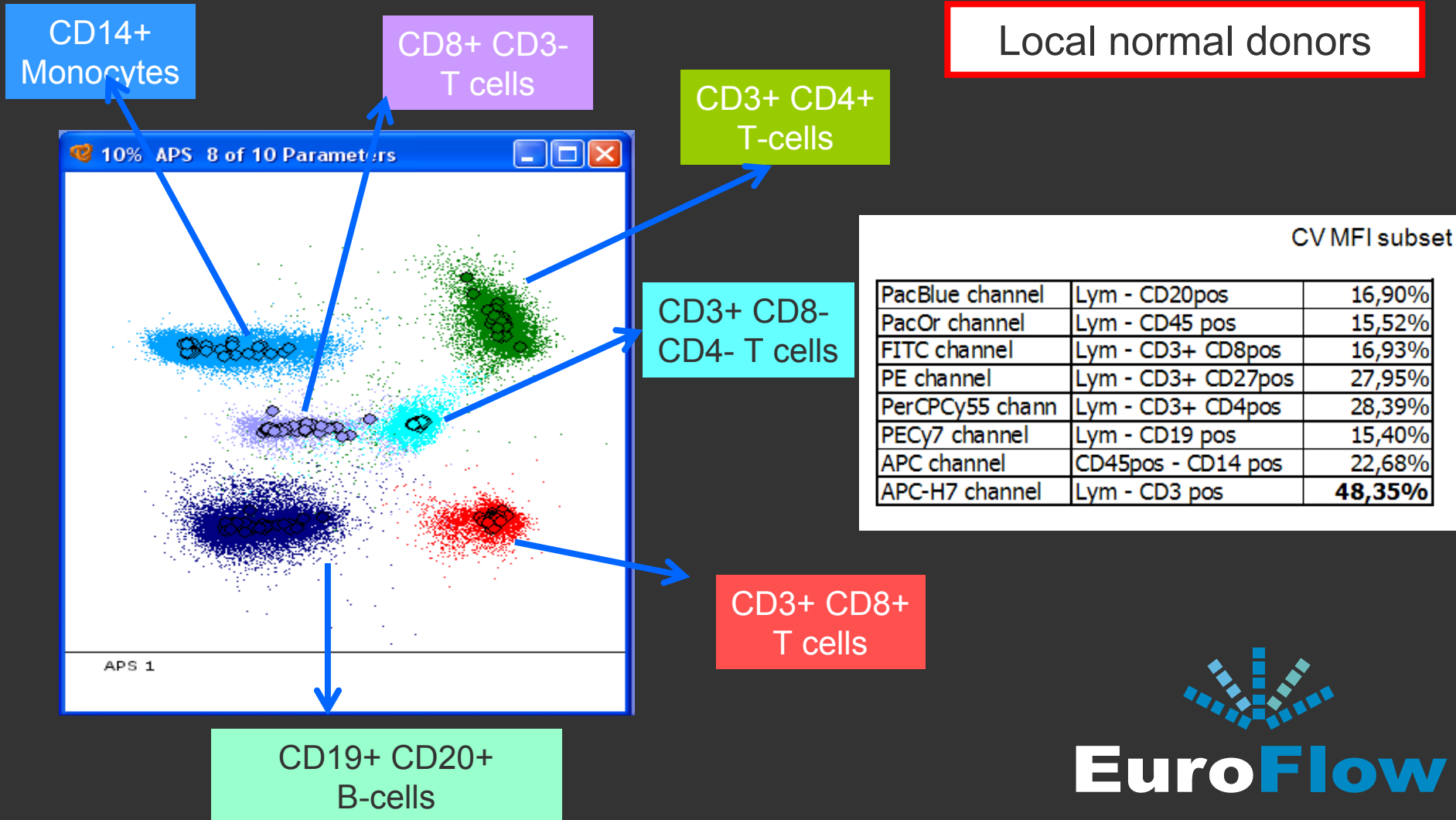


Each dot  
=  
patient/sample

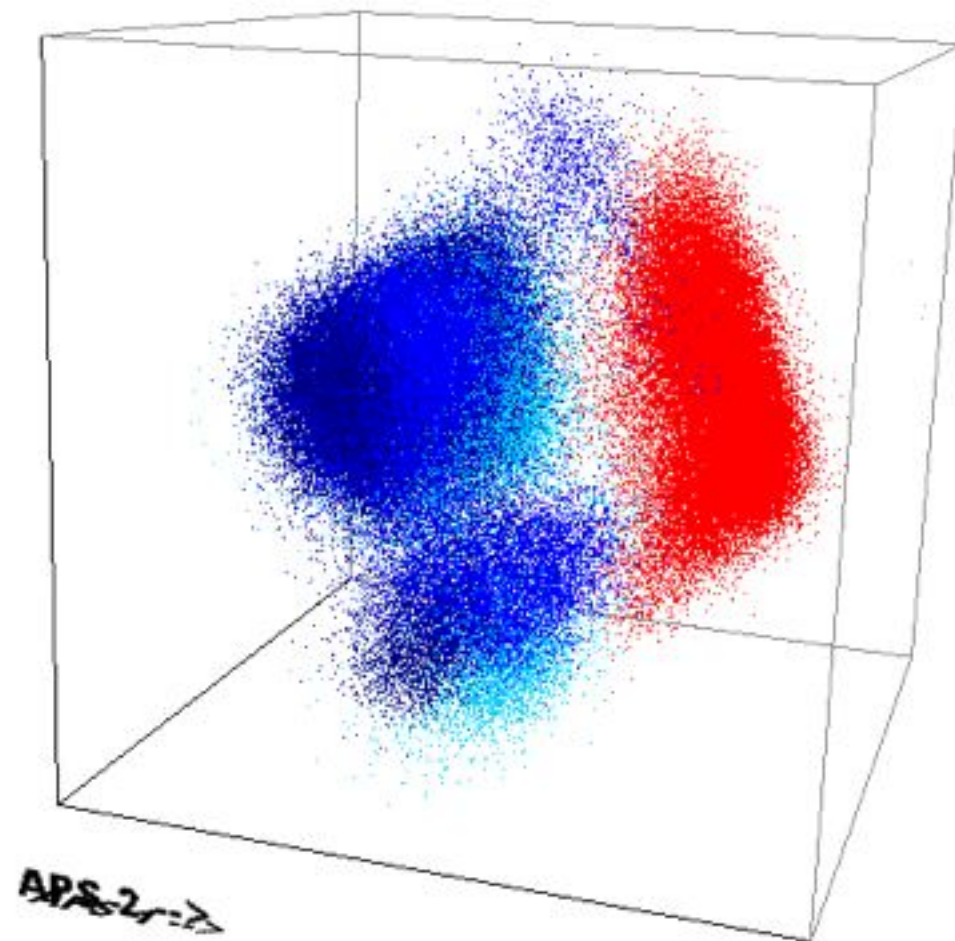
Group of patients with same panel/protocol applied and 2 different disease categories

# Results of synchronized experiments

APS view of 30 merged data files from different centers







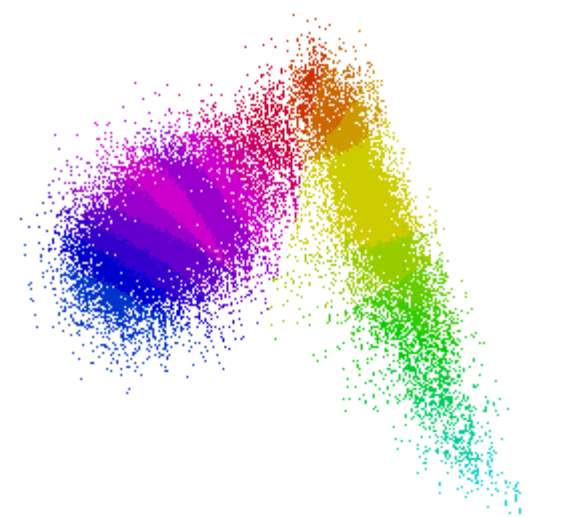
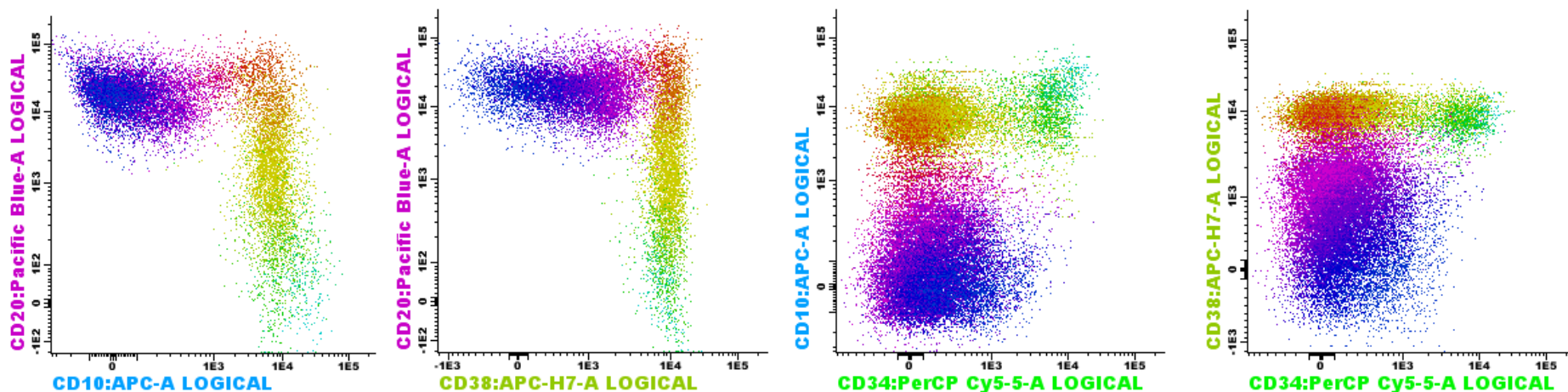
APS-2r-7



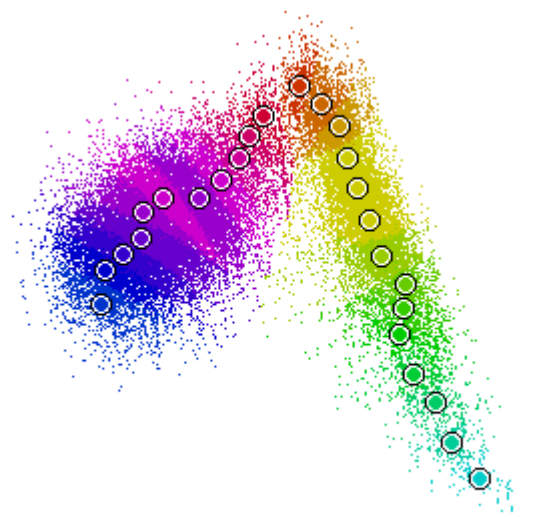
**EuroFlow**

Responsible scientist: L Lhermitte

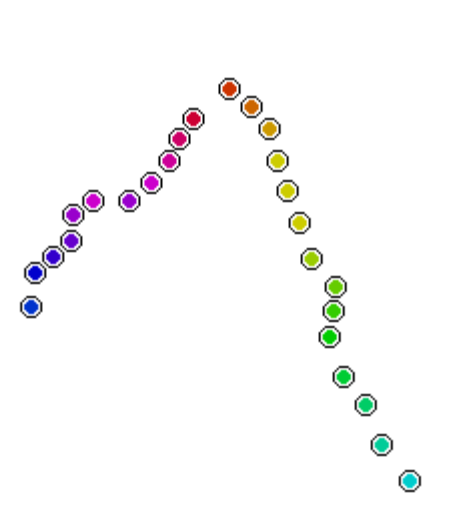
# Dissection of normal precursor-B-cell differentiation



APS 1



APS 1



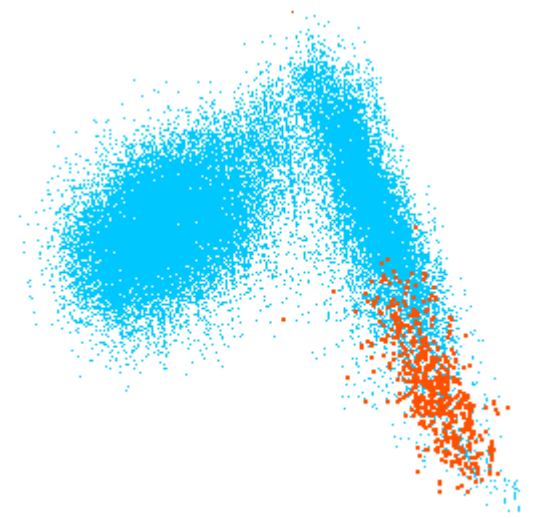
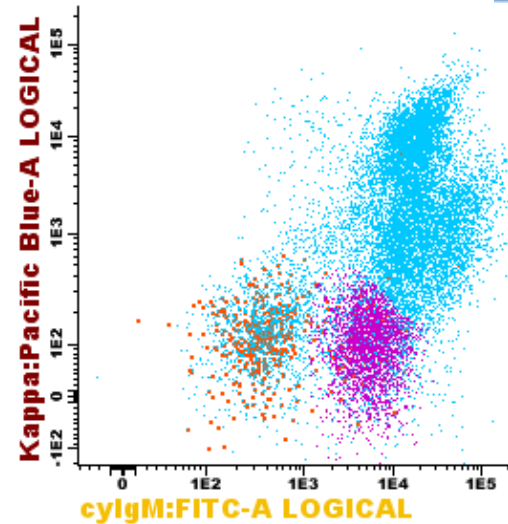
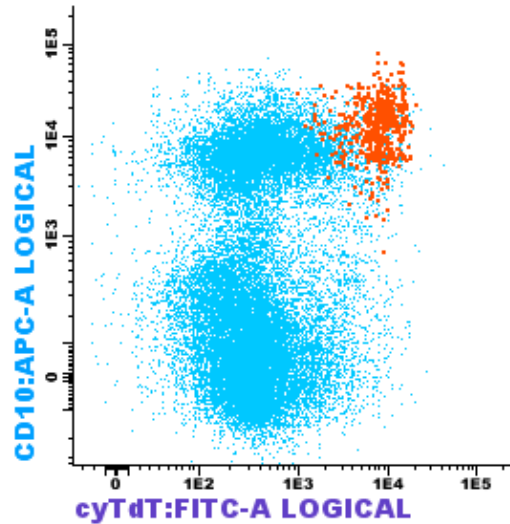
APS 1

Responsible scientists: V.H.J. van der Velden and E. Mejstrikova

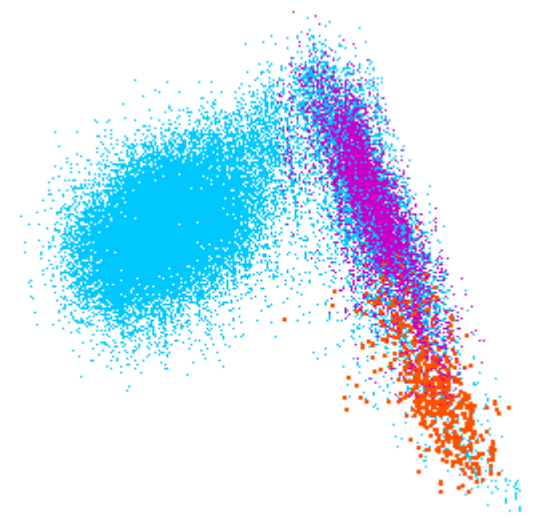
# Dissection of normal precursor-B-cell differentiation



**EuroFlow**



**APS 1**

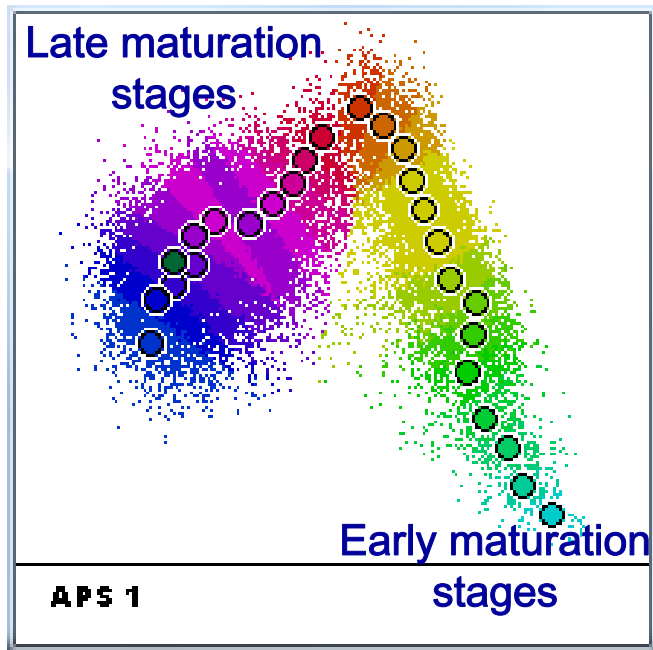


**APS 1**

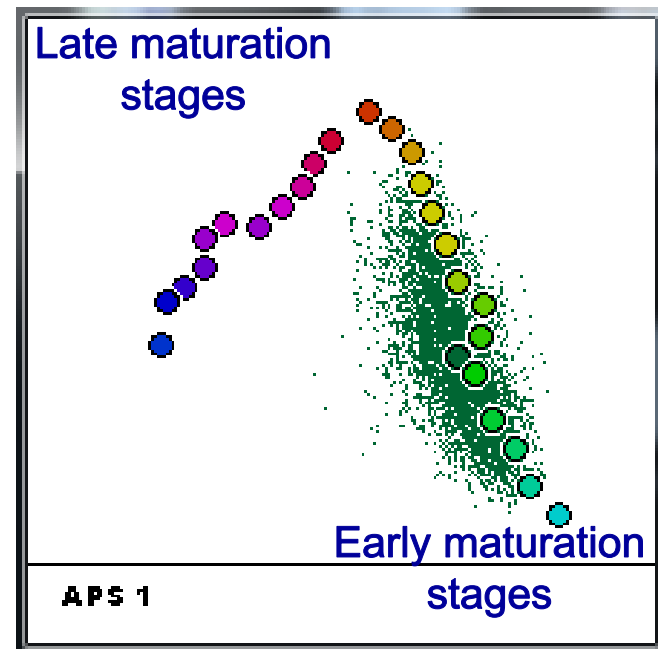
Responsible scientists: V.H.J. van der Velden and E. Mejstrikova

# Precursor B-cell differentiation in normal vs regenerating bone marrow

Normal BM



Normal vs **Regenerating** BM



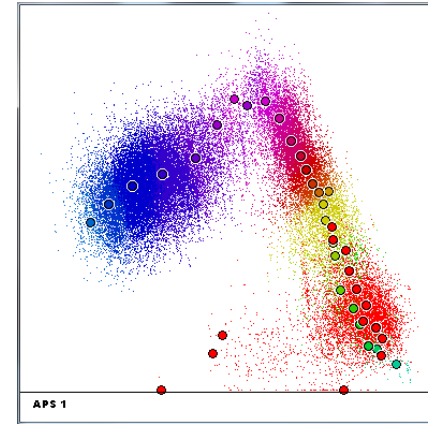
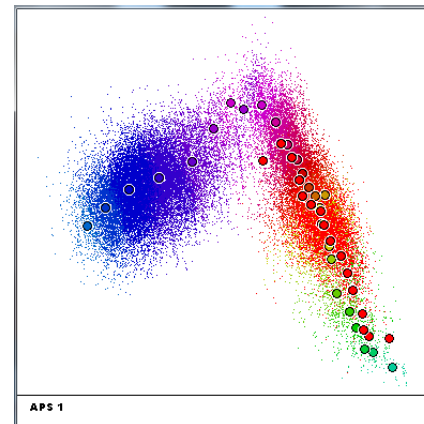
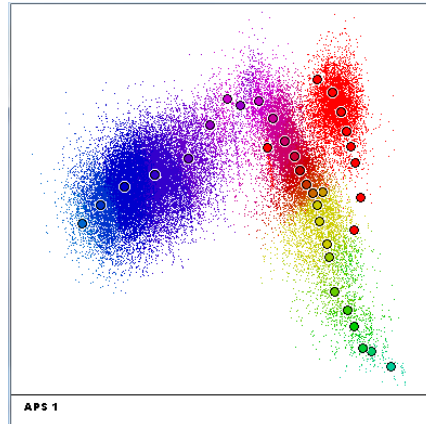
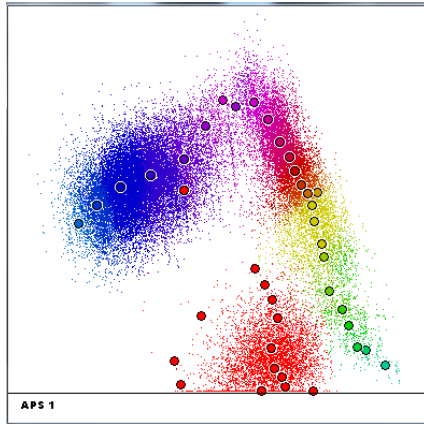
CD19 Gated B-cells (excluding PC)

# Four BCP-ALL cases vs normal precursor B-cells

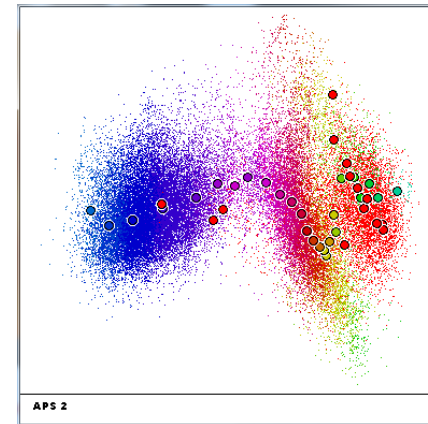
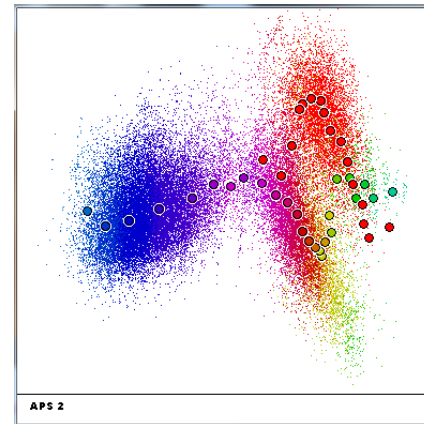
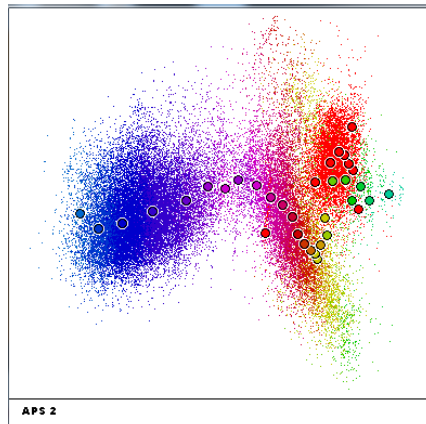
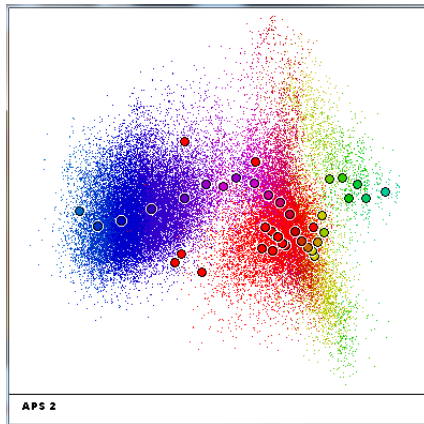


EuroFlow

## APS view 1



## APS view 2



Case 1

Case 2

Case 3

Case 4





# Development of 8-color MRD panels

## Single-tube antibody EuroFlow MRD protocols under evaluation

1. Acute leukemias (includes recognition of normal precursors)
  - Acute myeloid leukemia panel (AML-MRD): 1 tube per pathway (A. Orfao)
  - B-cell precursor (BCP-ALL-MRD): 1 tube (V. van der Velden, E. Mejstrikova)
  - T-cell ALL (T-ALL-MRD): 1 tube (V. Asnafi)
2. Chronic lymphoproliferative disorders (includes recognition of normal cells)
  - Chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL-MRD): 1 tube (A. Langerak)
  - Hairy cell leukemia (HCL-MRD): 1 tube (E. MacIntyre, L. Lhermitte)
  - Mantle cell lymphoma (MCL-MRD): 1 tube (S. Böttcher)
  - Follicular lymphoma (FL-MRD): 1 tube (S. Böttcher)
  - Marginal zone lymphoma (MZL-MRD): 1 tube (P. Lucio)
  - Lymphoplasmacytic lymphoma (LPL-MRD): 1 tube (P. Lucio)
  - Diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (DLBCL-MRD): 1 tube (P. Lucio)
  - Burkitt lymphoma (BL): 1 tube (L. Lhermitte)
  - T-chronic lymphoproliferative diseases (T-CLPD-MRD): 1 tube (J. Almeida)
  - Multiple myeloma (MM): 1 tube (J. Flores)



# Achievement of the EuroFlow Consortium: New concept in diagnostic flow cytometry



**EuroFlow**

1. Full technical standardization of multicolor flow cytometry (  $\geq 8$  colors)
  - standardization of instrument settings and laboratory protocols
  - selection of fluorochromes and selection of antibody clones per marker
  - EuroFlow protocols work on all tested  $\geq 8$  colors flow cytometers:
    - DAKO Cyan, LSR-II, FACS Canto-II;
    - “late arrivals” (Navios and Gallios): to be tested
2. Implementation and further development of novel software: Infinicyt
  - fast and easy data handling with automated pattern recognition
  - combining multiple tubes: calculation and APS (principle component analysis)
  - mapping of diagnosis and follow-up leukemia samples against templates of “normal/control” samples
3. Development of 8-color antibody protocols for diagnosis, classification and monitoring of hematological malignancies
  - 8-color panels are based on recognition of normal cells & differentiation pathways
  - diagnosis and classification tubes are ready; MRD tubes in development
  - flexibility within panels: deletion and inclusion of tubes (and markers) is possible
4. Large EuroFlow data base linked to Infinicyt software



**EuroFlow**

**EuroFlow Consortium (LSHB-CT-2006-018708)**

*Flow cytometry for fast and sensitive diagnosis and follow-up of hematological malignancies*



EuroFlow chairman:  
J.J.M. van Dongen & A. Orfao



21 laboratories in 14 countries  
[www.euroflow.org](http://www.euroflow.org)



Euroflow is an independent scientific consortium,  
which aims at innovation in flow cytometry  
for improvement of diagnostic patient care

[www.euroflow.org](http://www.euroflow.org)